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REMARKS

The Office Action of 12/22/2006 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the present amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful suggestions, which are appreciated.

Claims 1-8 were rejected as being anticipated by Farcy. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, the claims have been amended to recite in part obtaining data *providing a measure of system activity* since a previous branch, means for comparing said data with data relating to previous system activity, and means for predicting a branch outcome based on such comparison. No such feature is believed to be taught or suggested by Farcy.

Farcy (Figure 9) uses an anticipated table to help perform branch prediction. The anticipation table contains expected BRANCH/DO_NOT_BRANCH decisions for conditional branches. Such data does not provide a measure of system activity as claimed.

Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 03/19/2007